

JOFFRE TELLS OF CHARLEROI AND THE MARNE

French Commander, in First
Interview, Explains Vic-
tories and Defeats.

TALKS TO OLD FRIEND

Generals Failed to Measure
Up to Standard—He
Removed Them.

SOISSONS JUST AN "INCIDENT"

Fat, Good Natured, He Is Utterly Un-
like Photographs—Supremely Con-
fident of Final Success.

By C. F. BERTELLI.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Feb. 15.—By far the most thrill-
ing document published since the war
began is an interview with Gen. Joffre
giving his views of military operations
from the battle of Charleroi to the
French reverses at Soissons. The inter-
view was obtained by his life-long friend,
Paul Huard and printed in *de Peche de
Toulouse*.

In Gen. Joffre's barely furnished room,
twelve feet square, containing three arm-
chairs and a table, Huard and the com-
mander-in-chief threw themselves into
each other's arms in a Gallic embrace
of life-long intimates.

"After the preliminary greetings," Huard
writes, "I turned the conversation
to military operations, and Joffre ex-
pressed his utmost confidence in final vic-
tory. He had told me the same thing
the very day war was declared. Now
my mind went back to the anxious hours
of the Germans' overwhelming march on
Paris and to the defeat at Charleroi,
which had seemed to me a bloody denial
of Joffre's persistent confidence.

"You ought really to give me some
explanation of Charleroi," I said to him.
"Ought to have won."

"The general was neither astonished
nor offended by my question."
"I asked him if it was really true, as
the general public and even the com-
batants believed, that were were out-
flanked in Belgium by overwhelming
masses."

"Joffre is one of those men who
throughout their existence never told a
lie."

"Not at all, not at all," replied Gen.
Joffre. "My army was in sufficient num-
ber. We ought to have won the battle
of Charleroi. We had ten chances to
one to win it. We lost it through our
own fault by mistakes of our com-
manders."

"Long before the war broke out I
was aware of a great number of our gen-
erals were worn out ('fatigues'). Some
of them seemed to me unfit to fulfill their
duties. Some inspired me with doubt,
others even with disgust. I had made
known my intention to introduce a
younger element into our superior com-
mand. Despite all comments and in face
of all ill-feeling I came to a decision.
The war was a war of attrition. The
real test of men, fitted for war-
fare, is war itself rather than strate-
gical colleges. The keenest intelligence,
the most complete knowledge of little
value if to them are not added certain
qualities of action."

"Believed of Commands."

"Such are the responsibilities of war
that it is their peculiar attribute that
they paralyze the rarest faculties in men
of merit. That is what happened to
some of my chiefs. They could not do
justice to their merits."

"Observing these deficiencies, I set
about remedying them. Some of these
generals were my best comrades, but
while I love my friends, I love France
still more. I therefore relieved them of
their commands. I removed them to be
replaced by men who I found efficient,
but simply for the public weal."

"I did this with anguish in my soul,
and when left in solitude I wept."

"Turning the general from his mel-
ancholy memories, I said to him:
"Now explain to me your retreat, espe-
cially by what surprising miracle or
what caprice Gen. von Kluck obliterated
so suddenly when Paris was already
within his reach?"

"The retreat was very simple," re-
plied Joffre, now smiling again. With
numerous details he explained to me
how von Kluck's men, casting aside
their haversacks, swept like a whirl-
wind on Paris."

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KAISER IN PERSON TO START SUBMARINE RAIDS ON LINERS

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—It is reported here that Emperor William will
arrive at Cuxhaven on Thursday, February 18, to visit the submarine
fleet that the next day will inaugurate its under-sea warfare against
England and her shipping.

Private advices from Berlin state that Admiral von Tirpitz already
has arrived at Cuxhaven and that the new campaign against Great Britain
will begin at midnight on Thursday.

The Kaiser will leave the eastern battle front Wednesday for Cux-
haven. The sudden change in his plans may necessitate a change in the
arrangement for his conference with American Ambassador Gerard over
the American note.

It is possible that he will not see the American Ambassador until he
has seen the German submarines leave on their new campaign against
England.

Elaborate plans are being made for the Emperor's reception at Cux-
haven, according to Berlin dispatches. Every effort will be made to im-
press upon the German sailors that in destroying British food-carrying
ships they will be hastening the end of the war more effectively than if
they torpedoed British battleships.

SMUGGLING PLOT \$200 IS PUT ON BARED BY X-RAY ROBBERS' HEADS

Sheets of Rubber Are Found
in Bales of Cotton
Waste.

SHIPMENT IS HELD UP

Consignment to Mediterranean Port
Believed to Have Been In-
tended for Germany.

Special to The Washington Herald.

New York, Feb. 15.—Through the
medium of the X-ray a plot was dis-
covered today to smuggle abroad, pre-
sumably to Germany, a great quantity
of the finest grade white sheet rubber,
which had been concealed in bales of
cotton waste consigned on board the
White Star Line steamship *Cretic* for
Mediterranean ports. The consignment
consisted of 175 bales. All opened held
its valuable contraband, and the entire
lot was refused shipment.

The *Cretic* steams tomorrow for the
Mediterranean with a huge cargo
consisting of 175 bales of cotton waste
and a series of chests of contraband
goods, has convinced detectives at
police headquarters that a number of
"crooks" from other cities have shifted
their operations to Washington and an
earnest attempt to discourage these out-
siders will be made if possible by the
arrest of the car barn hold-up men.

Five Suspects in Tolls.
Jeremiah Hagerty and Roy Brady
were in charge of the car barn robbery
shortly before 4 o'clock in the morning,
when two men, one masked with a
blood-stained handkerchief and the other
with a black cloth, entered an open
revolver. Hagerty and Brady threw up
their hands. One of the men kept Hag-
erty and Brady "covered" while the
other searched the office. He missed
\$5,000 concealed in a compartment in the
safe. It is said, but not \$2,000. The men
escaped without difficulty.

Before last midnight detectives had
arrested five suspects in connection with
the car barn robbery. Two of the men,
the police say, probably will be held for
the robbery. They are said to have the
appearance of the men described by
Hagerty and Brady, and one of them
wore black gloves similar to those the
hold-up men are said to have worn.

The robbery was about twenty-four
hours after Sgt. Lohman, attempting
to arrest Leo Newman in Ninth street
northwest, was shot and badly wound-
ed. Newman also was shot and is in a
serious condition. He is at Emer-
gency Hospital on a charge of assault
with intent to kill. Frank Mark, col-
ored, and Elsie Griffith, also colored,
who were arrested with Newman, are
held on charges of assault with intent
to kill. Physicians believe Lohman
will recover.

Parole Snatcher Escapes.
Another robbery which is worrying
the police was that at the home of
John D. Howard at 325 Eighth street
northeast. The theft was committed
between 10 o'clock Sunday morning and
3 o'clock in the afternoon. The thief
forced a rear door and ransacked the
house, stealing \$56 in cash.

Mrs. Edmund J. Duval was returning
from her home at 138 R street northwest
last night, when a negro stepped from
the shadow of a tree, grabbed her purse,
and fled. Mrs. Duval screamed, but the
negro had disappeared before help could
be reached. The purse contained \$5 in
cash and articles worth \$5.

Clark Clark reported that his house
at 127 Twenty-seventh street northwest
was ransacked yesterday. The thief
forced a door and stole an overcoat, a
pair of trousers, a pair of shoes, and \$1
in money.

"ART ARISTOCRACY" LOSES.
The House yesterday rejected the
bill proposing to incorporate the Amer-
ican Academy of Arts and Sciences.
Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt,
William Dean Howells, Henry James,
Brander Matthews, and others distin-
guished in arts and sciences are among
the charter members of the organiza-
tion. President Wilson wrote a letter
indorsing the bill.

The bill was denounced by Repre-
sentative Sherley, of Kentucky; Staf-
ford, of Wisconsin, and others, as an
attempt to create an aristocracy of
artists and authors. This is the second
time this measure has failed in the
House. It has been pending in Con-
gress for fourteen years.

EVEN WILSON CAR BALKS.
President's Daughter Has to Wait
on Street for Repairs.

That even a Presidential auto will balk
occasionally was the lesson taught Miss
Margaret Wilson yesterday morning
when she motored with a friend in Cap-
itol avenue.

The thing just wouldn't budge, so Miss
Wilson and her friend got out and waited
on a corner for half an hour until the
chauffeur found what was wrong with
the mechanism.

SHIP BILL HITS ROCK IN HOUSE; TIE ON CLOTURE

Caucus Develops Revolt in
Democratic Ranks Against
Wilson Measure.

WIN OR DIE, SAYS CLARK

Warns Colleagues Extra Ses-
sion Would Wipe Party Off
Face of Earth.

SKIRMISHING ON "GAG" RULE

Republicans Threaten to Keep Up
Filibuster in Senate Until House
Bill Comes Over.

The administration's first move to force
the ship-bill through the House
was taken last night when a caucus of
the Democrats of the lower branch of
Congress was called to make the bill a
party measure. Immediately evidence
developed that there is a stormy time
ahead for the President's pet measure in
the House. At midnight the caucus was
still in session, and it looked as if it
might be an all-night affair.

At the opening of the caucus there
were many signs of trouble in the Demo-
cratic ranks—so many, in fact, that the
administration leaders were discouraged
over the situation. It remained for
Champ Clark to jump into the breach
and deliver a speech which did more
than anything else to assist the Presi-
dent in his fight to obtain caucus in-
dorsement for the measure.

Speaker Clark told his Democratic col-
leagues that the calling of a special ses-
sion of Congress would mean the end
of the Democratic party; that it would
run it and that it was the duty of every
Democrat to put his shoulder to the
wheel in order to avoid this calamity.

Fears Extra Session.
"You wandered in the wilderness for
sixteen years," said Speaker Clark, "and
you will wander there again unless you
follow the leader of the party. This is
no time to bawl. The President wants
no time to bawl. The President wants
this bill and it is probably as good a
bill as could be framed even if we de-
layed matters. I am opposed to govern-
ment ownership, but this is an emer-
gency measure. The House should do
everything possible to expedite action
and avoid an extra session. If there
is an extra session the Democratic party
will be wiped off the face of the earth at
the next election."

Most of the House leaders are opposed
to the President's bill as a matter of
principle, but they will content them-
selves with voting against it and will
not make an active fight to defeat it.

Representative Fitzgerald, of New
York, intimated that because of his op-
position to government ownership he
would refuse to be bound by the caucus
action.

Representative Hefflin, of Alabama,
who is close to several of the administration
leaders in the Senate, said he under-
stood that the President, if the House
passed the ship-bill, would not call an
extra session of Congress, but would
carry his fight to the country with a
view to renewing it at
the next session.

Champ Clark's speech resulted in the
withdrawal of several conflicting no-
tions that had been made by the Demo-
crats and a decision to debate the bill
paragraph by paragraph until a final
conclusion had been reached. Many of
the members had proposed adjourning
the caucus until today or tomorrow,
but the Clark speech won them to the
plan of immediate action.

Skirmish Over Cloture.
There was another skirmish in the
Senate yesterday afternoon over clot-
ure, but when it came over the Senate
leaders were no nearer a cloture rule
than they were last week.

Two votes were taken, and each time
there was a tie, and the Vice Presi-
dent had to cast the deciding vote for
the ship bill advocates. On one of the
issues raised the decision of the Vice
President was at stake on appeal from
his ruling, and to break a tie vote he
cast his deciding ballot in support of
his own ruling.

Senator Norris came forward with his
amendment to the Reed special cloture
rule with a general cloture rule. To this
Senator Cummins offered an amendment,
and soon the main question was en-
tangled in a maze of parliamentary
motions.

It looks now as if the Republicans
would be able to keep up the filibuster
against a vote on the cloture rule until
tomorrow, when the House ship bill
is expected to be over from the other side
of the Capitol.

British Prize Court Holds Decision In Wilhelmina Case; German War On Commerce Depends Upon Its Action

AMERICANS IN RUSH TO QUIT GERMANY AS PRESS TALKS WAR

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Copenhagen, Feb. 15.—Large numbers of Americans are leaving
Berlin and pouring in here on every train because of the hostile attitude
of the Berlin press and the German people against Americans.

Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—War between the United States and Germany
is considered as a possibility in an editorial in the weekly German publi-
cation, *Montag Zeitung*, copies of which reached here today. With the
other weekly papers it publishes an enthusiastic article on the "Fateful
February 18," and asks:

"What harm can America do? She has no army. Her fleet dare
not approach nearer our shores than does the English fleet. The ex-
pulsion of Germans from America would mean her ruin. America's
threats are simply ridiculous. It would be still more ridiculous for us
to take them in earnest."

The other weeklies protest in violent language against alleged Ameri-
can partisanship for the allies, and urge the government to resist what
they call "American pressure."

Germany Refuses to Heed Protest By U.S. Against War Tactics

Note Says New Military Zone Will Present Additional
Dangers to Merchant Shipping and Proclaims Intention
to Make No Change in Plan of Warfare—United
States Gives Britain Plain Intimation Wilhel-
mina's Cargo Should Be Released.

The protest of the United States will not cause Germany to alter its
plan of warfare against British merchant shipping, unless Great Britain her-
self changes her present plan of attempting to starve the German nation.
This was made clear in a note from the German government delivered at
the State Department yesterday by Ambassador von Bernstorff.

"Germany," says a statement issued by the German Embassy last night,
"will be obliged to adhere to the announced principles till England submits
to the recognized rules of warfare."

upon Great Britain. If Great Britain
should modify her plan through action
in the Wilhelmina case, Germany would
be disposed to alter her war zone de-
cree. The German Embassy's statement
giving an outline of the note follows:
"According to absolutely reliable in-
formation British merchant ships intend
to oppose armed resistance to German
men-of-war in the area declared as war
zone by the German admiralty. Some
of these ships were already armed with
British naval guns. Now all the others
are speedily equipped in a similar way.
Merchant ships have been instructed to
sail in groups and to ram German sub-
marines, while the examination is pro-
ceeding, or should the submarines lay
aloof, to throw bombs upon them
or else to attempt to overpower the ex-
amining party coming on board. A very
high premium has been offered for the
destruction of the first German subma-
rine by a British merchant vessel."

"Therefore British merchant ships can-
not any more be considered as unde-
fended, so that they may be attacked
by German war vessels, without warn-
ing or search. The British admitted
that instructions have been given to mis-
use neutral flags. It is almost certain
that British merchant vessels will by all
means try to conceal their identity."

More Mines to Be Laid.
Under these circumstances, the safety
of neutral shipping in the war zone
around the British Isles is seriously
threatened. There is also an increased
danger resulting from mines, as these
will be laid in the war zone to a great
extent. Accordingly, neutral ships are
most urgently warned against entering
that area, while the course around Scot-
land will be safe.

"Germany has been compelled to re-
sort to this kind of warfare by the
murderous ways of British naval war-
fare, which aims at the destruction of
legitimate neutral trade and at the
starvation of the German people.
Germany will be obliged to adhere to
the announced principles till England
submits to the recognized rules of war-
fare established by the declaration
of Paris and London, or till she is
compelled to do so by the neutral
powers."

That Italy has followed the lead of
the United States in expressing to
Germany its disapproval of the war
zone decree was confirmed yesterday
afternoon at the Italian Embassy.

BRITISH SHIP STRIKES MINE.

Wavelet, from Pensacola with Tim-
ber, Beached—Twelve Drowned.

Deal, England, Feb. 15.—The British
steamer *Wavelet* struck a mine off the
coast today and had to be beached near
Deal. Twelve of her crew were drowned
when a boat in which they were trying
to reach shore capsized.

The *Wavelet* was bound from Pen-
sacola, Fla., for Leith, with a cargo of
timber.

CUBA, FLORIDA, SAVANNAH, AL-
BANY, N. Y., TRAINS DAILY, Atlantic Coast
Line. Office 100 New York ave. N. Y. 44.

"Germany Will Not Be Allowed to Adopt a System of Open
Piracy Without Active Reprisals," Declares Winston
Churchill, First Lord of the British Admiralty, Before
Commons—Threatens to Bring Full Naval Power to
Bear Against Kaiser and Halt All Importations of Food
Into Empire—Premier Asquith Announces Action in
Wilhelmina Case, Adding that It Will Be Rescinded if
Cargo Is Sold to Belgian Relief Committee.

WAR TO COST ALLIES \$10,000,000,000 DURING COMING YEAR; GREAT BRITAIN TO BEAR BRUNT

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 15.—"Germany will not be allowed to adopt a system of
open piracy and murder without active reprisals," declared Winston
Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, in the House of Commons this after-
noon.

The house galleries were crowded, many of the most notable men in
the empire having come to hear Mr. Churchill's speech and the statement
of finances of the war that was made by the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr.
Lloyd-George. Among those who sat in the peers' gallery and heard Mr.
Churchill's defense of the British navy and review of its operations during
the first six months of the war was Lord John Fisher, the acting executive
head of the navy.

At the close of Mr. Churchill's speech the premier, announced that the
government had decided, "under the special circumstances," to submit the
cargo of the *Wilhelmina* and its destination to a prize court.

"We have not yet stopped the imports of food into Germany," said Mr.
Churchill, "but the time has now come when we must reconsider the situa-
tion. The allied governments probably will make a declaration, the effect
of which will be to bring the full pres-
sure of our naval power to bear upon
Germany. The paralyzing force of
this pressure of the navy may itself
decide the issue of the war."

Few Merchant Ships Lost.

Mr. Churchill stated that the British
losses of merchant vessels in the first
six months of the war were sixty-three,
only nineteen of which had been lost
in the last three months. The greater
part of whom were killed by submarines.
The Germans, he said, had lost a similar
number, chiefly by gunfire. Eighty-
three German officers and 554 men also
had been taken prisoners.

"The German army at the beginning
of the war," said Mr. Churchill, "was not
more ready for offensive war on a sig-
nificant scale than was the British fleet
for national defense. On mobilization we
were able to man every ship in the
navy, and, in addition, to provide a naval
air service. During the last three
months 3,000 British merchant ships
have been on the sea; only nineteen were
sunk, and of these only four were sunk
by above-water craft."

Rules of War Changed.

The Germans, said Mr. Churchill, ad-
mitted their inferiority though only by
fight. "They were wise," he said.
When the great fleet does draw out for
general battle, we hope to bring into
line a preponderance, not only in qual-
ity but in quantity."

The rules of naval war have com-
pletely changed, he said. The admir-
alty now considers that courtmartial for
the loss of any ship not only would be
improper, but sometimes harmful. Tak-
ing up the question of the German de-
claration of a "war zone" around Great
Britain, he said that Great Britain's re-
ply would, perhaps, not be ineffective.

"The oceans offer a bleak prospect for
German cruisers," he continued. "England
is now able to meet any new effort or
new resources with incomparably supe-
rior forces to those available at the be-
ginning of the war." Command of the
seas has enabled England to move and
carry throughout the whole world ap-
proximately 1,000,000 men without ac-
cidentally or loss of life. If that is in-
capacity, I hope there will be an inex-
haustible supply of that quality."

"The fact that ships are sometimes
kept in port is no sign of incapacity; it
is part of the system of emergency readi-
ness."

Sought Safety in Flight.
Mr. Churchill reiterated that the recent
naval action in the North Sea was not
fought out because of the Germans' re-
sistance to waters infested with subma-
rines and mines. The result of the ac-
tion, he stated, vindicated the theory
and design of the big gun which Lord
Fisher had advocated.

Bonar Law, leader of the opposition,
followed Mr. Churchill. As he was
starting to talk the lights accidentally
went out.

"The Germans have come!" shouted
Labor Leader Thorne, joyfully.

Mr. Law said: "The real problem be-
fore the navy is the same that it was
100 years ago, and the dangers are the
same. One danger is the attitude of neu-
tral powers, whom sea power inevitably
irritates."

"I think it probable that Russia and
our sea power will ultimately compel the
Kaiser to risk his navy in a sea fight.
The sooner the better. When the oppor-
tunity comes, though in this war there
is neither a Napoleon nor a Nelson, there
may be another Trafalgar."

Lord Charles Bessborough said he consid-
ered the speech a masterpiece.

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